CLAIMS

1. A priority determination device provided in one of a plurality of electronic apparatuses that can be connected to one another, are respectively assigned priorities, and respectively have operation units each performing a predetermined operation, characterized by comprising:

connected state detection means for detecting the change in the connected state of said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

first identification means for identifying the electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state by communicating with the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses in response to the detection of the change by said connected state detection means;

first judgment means for judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority on the basis of the priority of each of the electronic apparatuses identified by said first identification means; and

first operation allowance/inhibition means for allowing the operation performed by said operation unit when said first judgment means judges that said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority, while inhibiting the operation performed by said operation unit when said first

judgment means judges that said one electronic apparatus does not have the highest priority.

2. The priority determination device according to claim 1, characterized in which

priorities are previously set, respectively, in identification information for identifying said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

said first identification means comprising

first communication means for receiving the identification information from the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state in response to the detection of the change by said connected state detection means, and transmitting the self identification information to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state,

said first judgment means comprising

first comparison means for comparing the identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses received by said communication means with the self identification information, to judge whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority.

3. The priority determination device according to claim

2, characterized by further comprising

storage means for storing apparatus connection information representing the electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another on the basis of the identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses received by said first communication means,

said operation unit having the function of operating the electronic apparatuses connected on the basis of the apparatus connection information stored in said storage means.

4. The priority determination device according to claim 2 or 3, characterized by further comprising

power supply state detection means for detecting the change in the states of power supplies in the plurality of electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another,

second identification means for identifying the electronic apparatus in which the power supply is in the on state out of the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies by communicating with the connected other electronic apparatus or apparatuses in response to the detection of the change by said power supply state detection means,

second judgment means for judging whether or not said

one electronic apparatus has the highest priority on the basis of the priority of each of the electronic apparatuses identified by said second identification means, and

second operation allowance/inhibition means for allowing the operation performed by said operation unit when said second judgment means judges that said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority, while inhibiting the operation performed by said operation unit when said second judgment means judges that said one electronic apparatus does not have the highest priority.

5. The priority determination device according to claim 4, characterized in that

said second identification means comprises

second communication means for receiving the identification information, together with power supply information representing the states of the power supplies, from the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies in response to the detection of the change by said power supply state detection means, and transmitting power supply information representing the state of the self power supply, together with the self identification information, to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state, and

said second judgment means comprises

second comparison means for comparing the identification information for the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state on the basis of the power supply information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses and the self power supply information which have been received by said second communication means, to judge whether or not said one electronic apparatus out of the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state has the highest priority.

6. The priority determination device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said operation unit comprises a speech recognition operation unit that performs a speech recognition operation.

7. A priority determination device provided in one of a plurality of electronic apparatuses that can be connected to one another, are respectively assigned priorities, and respectively have operation units each performing a predetermined operation, characterized by comprising:

power supply state detection means for detecting the change in the states of power supplies in the plurality of electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another;

identification means for identifying the electronic apparatus in which the power supply is in the on state out of the electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies by communicating with the connected other electronic apparatus or apparatuses in response to the detection of the change by said power supply state detection means;

judgment means for judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority on the basis of the priority of each of the electronic apparatuses identified by said identification means; and

operation allowance/inhibition means for allowing the operation performed by said operation unit when said judgment means judges that said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority, while inhibiting the operation performed by said operation unit when said judgment means judges that said one electronic apparatus does not have the highest priority.

8. The priority determination device according to claim 7, characterized in which

priorities are previously set, respectively, in identification information for identifying said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

said identification means comprising

communication means for receiving the identification information, together with power supply information representing the states of the power supplies, from the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies in response to the detection of the change by said power supply state detection means, and transmitting power supply information representing the state of the self power supply, together with the self identification information, to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state,

said judgment means comprising

comparison means for comparing the identification information for the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state on the basis of the power supply information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses and the self power supply information which have been received by said communication means, to judge whether or not said one electronic apparatus out of the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state has the highest priority.

9. The priority determination device according to claim 8, characterized by further comprising

storage means for storing apparatus connection

information representing the electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another on the basis of the identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses received by said communication means,

said operation unit having the function of operating the electronic apparatuses connected on the basis of the apparatus connection information stored in said storage means.

10. The priority determination device according to any one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that said operation unit comprises a speech recognition operation unit that performs a speech recognition operation.

11. A priority determining method provided in one of a plurality of electronic apparatuses that can be connected to one another, are respectively assigned priorities, and respectively have operation units each performing a predetermined operation, the priority determining method according to claim 1, characterized by comprising the steps of:

detecting the change in the connected state of said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

identifying the electronic apparatus or apparatuses,

other than said one electronic apparatus, connected after the change in the connected state by communicating with the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses in response to the detection of the change;

judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority on the basis of the priority of each of the identified electronic apparatuses; and

allowing the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority, while inhibiting the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic apparatus does not have the highest priority.

12. The priority determining method according to claim 11, characterized in which

priorities are previously set, respectively, in identification information for identifying said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

said identifying step comprising the step of

receiving the identification information from the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state in response to the detection of the change by said step of detecting the change in the connected state, and transmitting the self identification information to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses

connected after the change in the connected state,

said judging step comprising the step of

judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority by comparing the identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses received by said communication means with the self identification information.

13. The priority determining method according to claim 12, characterized by further comprising the step of

storing apparatus connection information representing the electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another on the basis of said received identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses,

said operation unit operating the electronic apparatuses connected on the basis of said stored apparatus connection information.

14. A priority determining method provided in one of a plurality of electronic apparatuses that can be connected to one another, are respectively assigned priorities, and respectively have operation units each performing a predetermined operation, characterized by comprising the steps of:

detecting the change in the states of power supplies in

the plurality of electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another;

identifying the electronic apparatus in which the power supply is in the on state out of the electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies by communicating with the connected other electronic apparatus or apparatuses in response to the detection of the change by said step of detecting the change in the states of the power supplies;

judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority on the basis of the priority of each of the electronic apparatuses identified by said step of identifying the electronic apparatus in which the power supply is in the on state; and

allowing the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority, while inhibiting the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic apparatus does not have the highest priority.

15. The priority determining method according to claim 14, characterized in which

priorities are previously set, respectively, in identification information for identifying said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

said identifying step comprising the step of

receiving the identification information, together with power supply information representing the states of the power supplies, from the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies in response to the detection of the change, and transmitting the power supply information representing the state of the self power supply, together with the self identification information, to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state,

said judging step comprising the step of

judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus out of the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state has the highest priority by comparing the identification information for the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state on the basis of the power supply information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses and the self power supply information which have been received.

16. The priority determining method according to claim 15, characterized by further comprising the step of

storing apparatus connection information representing the electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another

on the basis of said received identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses,

said operation unit operating the electronic apparatuses connected on the basis of said stored apparatus connection information.

17. A priority determination program executed by a processing device in one of a plurality of electronic apparatuses that can be connected to one another, are respectively assigned priorities, and respectively have operation units each performing a predetermined operation, characterized by comprising:

processing for detecting the change in the connected state of said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

processing for identifying the electronic apparatus or apparatuses, other than said one electronic apparatus, connected after the change in the connected state by communicating with the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses in response to the detection of the change;

processing for judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority on the basis of the priority of each of the identified electronic apparatuses; and

processing for allowing the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic

apparatus has the highest priority, while inhibiting the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic apparatus does not have the highest priority.

18. The priority determination program according to claim 17, characterized in which

priorities are previously set, respectively, in identification information for identifying said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

said identifying processing comprising

processing for receiving the identification information from the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state in response to the detection of the change in the connected state by the processing for detecting the change, and transmitting the self identification information to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state

said judging processing comprising

processing for judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority by comparing the received identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses with the self identification information.

19. The priority determination program according to claim 18, characterized by further comprising

processing for storing apparatus connection information representing the electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another on the basis of said received identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses,

said operation unit operating the electronic apparatuses connected on the basis of said stored apparatus connection information.

20. A priority determination program executed by a processing device in one of a plurality of electronic apparatuses that can be connected to one another, are respectively assigned priorities, and respectively have operation units each performing a predetermined operation, characterized by comprising:

processing for detecting the change in the states of power supplies in the plurality of electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another;

processing for identifying the electronic apparatus in which the power supply is in the on state out of the electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies by communicating with the

connected other electronic apparatus or apparatuses in response to the detection of the change in the states of the power supplies by said processing for detecting the change;

processing for judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority on the basis of the priority of each of the identified electronic apparatuses; and

processing for allowing the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic apparatus has the highest priority, while inhibiting the operation performed by said operation unit when it is judged that said one electronic apparatus does not have the highest priority.

21. The priority determination program according to claim 20, characterized in which

priorities are previously set, respectively, in identification information for identifying said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

said identifying processing comprising

processing for receiving the identification information, together with power supply information representing the states of the power supplies, from the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the states of the power supplies in response to the

detection of the change, and transmitting power supply information representing the state of the self power supply, together with the self identification information, to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses connected after the change in the connected state,

said judging processing comprising

processing for judging whether or not said one electronic apparatus out of the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state has the highest priority by comparing the identification information for the electronic apparatuses in which the power supplies are in the on state on the basis of the power supply information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses and the self power supply information which have been received.

22. The priority determination program according to claim 21, characterized by further comprising

processing for storing apparatus connection information representing the electronic apparatuses which are connected to one another on the basis of said received identification information for the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses,

said operation unit operating the electronic apparatuses connected on the basis of said stored apparatus connection information.

23. An electronic apparatus that can be connected to the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses, characterized in that

the electronic apparatus has an inherent number capable of determining a priority in a predetermined function in the connected state with the other electronic apparatus or apparatuses.